

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Cancelled)

2-75. (Cancelled)

76. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving, at a payment service provider, a request to pay a payee on behalf of a payer;
selecting a form for crediting the payee based at least in part on at least one of (i)
comparing a payer account number associated with the payer and the payee to a merchant
account scheme; and (ii) comparing a payment amount associated with the received request to a
merchant credit limit; and
directing a payment to the payee in accordance with the selected form for crediting.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the form for crediting comprises at least one of
(i) a check payable to the payee and written on an account of the payment service provider, (ii) an
electronic credit, and (iii) a paper draft payable to the payee and written on an account of the
payer.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the selected form for crediting is a check written
on an account of the payment service provider, and wherein the check is a consolidated check.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the request is a first request and the payer is a
first payer, and further comprising:
receiving a second request to pay the payee on behalf of a second payer; and

selecting a check written on an account of the payment service provider as the form for crediting the payee on behalf of the second payer;

wherein the consolidated check combines payment of the first request and payment of the second request.

80. (New) The method of claim 78, further comprising:

transmitting a remittance list associated with the consolidated check to the payee.

81. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the electronic credit comprises at least one of (i) an Automated Clearing House (ACH) credit and (ii) a remittance processing system credit.

82. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the selected form for crediting is a paper draft, and the paper draft comprises posting information for the payee.

83. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein selecting the form for crediting the payee is further based at least in part on an examination of a settlement code associated with the payee.

84. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein selecting the form for crediting includes comparing the payment amount associated with the received request to a merchant credit limit; and

if the payment amount is less than or equal to the merchant credit limit, then the selected form for debiting is an electronic credit.

85. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein selecting the form for crediting includes comparing the payer account number associated with the payee to a merchant account scheme; and

if the payer account number with the payee fails to correspond to the merchant account scheme, then the selected form for debiting is a paper draft.

86. (New) A system, comprising:

an interface to a network configured to receive a request to make a payment to a payee on behalf of a payer; and

a processor configured (i) to select a form for crediting the payee based at least in part on at least one of (1) a comparison of a payer account number associated with the payer and the payee to a merchant account scheme, and (2) a comparison of a payment amount associated with the received request to a merchant credit limit, and (ii) to direct issuance of a payment to the payee in accordance with the selected form for crediting.

87. (New) The system of claim 86, wherein the form for crediting comprises at least one of (i) a check payable to the payee written on an account of the payment service provider, (ii) an electronic credit, and (iii) a paper draft payable to the payee written on an account of the payer.

88. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein the selected form for crediting is a check written on an account of the payment service provider, and wherein the check is a consolidated check.

89. (New) The system of claim 88, wherein the request is a first request and the payer is a first payer, and wherein:

the interface is further configured to receive a second request to pay the payee on behalf of a second payer; and

the processor is further configured to select a check written on an account of the payment service provider as the form for crediting the payee on behalf of the second payer;

wherein the consolidated check combines payment of the first request and payment of the second request.

90. (New) The system of claim 88, wherein:

the processor is further configured to direct the transmission of a remittance list associated with the consolidated check to the payee.

91. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein the electronic credit comprises at least one of (i) an Automated Clearing House (ACH) credit and (ii) a remittance processing system credit.

92. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein the selected form for crediting is a paper draft, and the paper draft contains posting information for the payee.

93. (New) The system of claim 86, wherein the processor is further configured to select the form for crediting the payee based at least in part on an examination of a settlement code associated with the payee.

94. (New) The system of claim 86, wherein the processor selects the form for crediting based at least in part on a comparison of the payment amount associated with the received request to a merchant credit limit; and

if the payment amount is less than or equal to the merchant credit limit, then the processor selects an electronic credit as the form for crediting.

95. (New) The system of claim 86, wherein the processor selects the form for crediting based at least in part on a comparison of the payer account number associated with the payee to a merchant account scheme; and

if the payer account number with the payee fails to correspond to the merchant account scheme, then the processor selects a paper draft as the form for crediting.

96. (New) A system comprising:

means for receiving, at a payment service provider, a request to pay a payee on behalf of a payer;

means for selecting a form for crediting the payee based at least in part on at least one of (i) comparing a payer account number associated with the payer and the payee to a merchant account scheme; and (ii) comparing a payment amount associated with the received request to a merchant credit limit; and

means for directing a payment to the payee in accordance with the selected form for crediting.